

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 030240  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:AGRIFFIN:BDF  
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.  
S/S:R. PERITO

-----100455Z 119531 /12

O 100421Z FEB 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 030240

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, LE, SY

SUBJECT: ORAL MESSAGE FOR ISRAELI EMBASSY WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 9

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS PASSED BY ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY ATHERTON TO AMBASSADOR DINITZ WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 9.

2. BEGIN MESSAGE:

OUR CHARGE IN BEIRUT DELIVERED TO LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER  
BOUTROS THIS MORNING (FEBRUARY 9) OUR MESSAGE CONVEYING  
THE ISRAELI REPLY GIVEN TO US BY AMBASSADOR DINITZ LATE ON  
FEBRUARY 8.

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FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS RESPONDED LATER IN THE DAY AS  
FOLLOWS:

-- THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AGREES TO THE PRINCIPLE OF WITH-  
DRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES TO AYSHIYAH.

-- THIS DECISION IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE QUESTION OF

FURTHER WITHDRAWALS, WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY VANCE DURING HIS VISIT.

-- THE TIMETABLE FOR WITHDRAWAL TO AYSHIYAH WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FEBRUARY 10. THE QUESTION OF THE STATIONING OF LEBANESE FORCES IN NABATIYAH WILL BE EXAMINED IN THIS CONTEXT.

-- AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL TO AYSHIYAH, THE AREA BETWEEN AYSHIYAH AND NABATIYAH MAY BE PATROLLED BY LEBANESE FORCES OR LEBANESE FORCES MAY BE STATIONED IN THE AREA.

IN ACKNOWLEDGING THE RECEIPT OF THIS RESPONSE, WE ARE STRESSING TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT THE POINT YOU HAVE MADE THAT LEBANESE FORCES TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR SYRIAN FORCES IN THE AREA MUST BE GENUINE AND AUTHENTIC LEBANESE UNITS.

IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING A SERIOUS EFFORT TO MEET THE CONCERNS OF ISRAEL AND WE ASSUME THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL FIND THIS RESPONSE, SO FAR AS IT GOES, SATISFACTORY. WE WILL COMMUNICATE TO YOU, AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE IT, THE TIMETABLE PROMISED US TOMORROW. WE CONSIDER IT REASONABLE THAT THE TIMETABLE COULD TAKE THIS ADDITIONAL PERIOD TO WORK OUT, GIVEN THE PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION AND THE SENSITIVITY OF THE MOVEMENT IN THIS AREA.

I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THERE  
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BE NO PUBLICITY ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN TROOPS EVEN AFTER IT WILL HAVE OCCURRED. PRIOR TO THE WITHDRAWAL, HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT THERE BE NO PUBLICITY; PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE FORTHCOMING WITHDRAWAL COULD WELL AFFECT THE CARRYING OUT OF THE MOVE. END MESSAGE.  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, CAT-A, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, TROOP REDUCTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AGRIFIN:BDF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** |  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3352561  
**Secure:** LOCK1  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ORAL MESSAGE FOR ISRAELI EMBASSY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MOPS, IS, US, LE, SY, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR), (DINITZ, SIMCHA)  
**To:** BEIRUT DAMASCUS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009